



PLANNING AHEAD 2010 HURRICANE SEASON QUICKLISTS

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A STORM: Make Sure You Have Enough Water!

The following tips were updated with information from The Miami Herald's 2009 "Hurricane Preparedness" special publication and Miami-Dade County sources.

- ❑ Have at least a two-week supply of water on hand for each family member. Budget for at least one gallon a day for each person.
- ❑ Fill washed plastic containers with tap water. Wait until a hurricane warning is announced to fill the containers. Store this water for no longer than three months.
- ❑ If you buy bottled water, remember that its generally recommended shelf life is only six months.
- ❑ Freeze as much water as you can. Fill your freezer to increase the length of time it will remain cool if the power goes out. Use frozen water containers with or instead of loose ice in an ice chest.
- ❑ As a storm approaches, store water in your bathtub for flushing toilets and washing. Do not drink this water. Sponge the tub with a solution of liquid bleach and water, caulk the drain to make it watertight and fill the tub. Cover it if you can. Use four drops of unscented bleach per gallon of water.
- ❑ Before a storm, unhook or shut off your water heater from its water source so it will not get contaminated.
- ❑ After a storm, find out if tap water is safe to drink. Listen to local news bulletins for a boil water alert.
- ❑ If you don't have containerized water after a storm, tap water can be boiled to kill most types of disease-causing organisms and make it safe for drinking. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for boiling. Boil the water for one minute, let it cool, and store it in clean containers with covers.
- ❑ If you can't boil tap water, disinfect it with household bleach. Bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms that may be in the water. If cloudy, filter the water through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for disinfection. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or eight drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before use. Store disinfected water in clean, covered containers.